

Michaud Pushes National Manufacturing Strategy to Spur Job Growth

Thursday, April 07 2011

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Mike Michaud has joined with his colleagues to introduce a bipartisan bill called the "National Manufacturing Strategy Act." The bill would create a national manufacturing strategy that will be updated and coordinated to reflect the needs of the U.S. manufacturing sector in order to boost competitiveness and job creation. The "National Manufacturing Strategy Act" passed the House last year by a wide-bipartisan margin of 379-38, and Michaud and his colleagues are hopeful it will pass again this year and be signed into law.

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Mike Michaud has joined with his colleagues to introduce a bipartisan bill called the "National Manufacturing Strategy Act." The bill would create a national manufacturing strategy that will be updated and coordinated to reflect the needs of the U.S. manufacturing sector in order to boost competitiveness and job creation. The "National Manufacturing Strategy Act" passed the House last year by a wide-bipartisan margin of 379-38, and Michaud and his colleagues are hopeful it will pass again this year and be signed into law.

"I believe a diverse, robust manufacturing sector is key to a strong American economy and critical to our national security," said Michaud. "We must evaluate what policy changes are needed to promote more domestic production. Our manufacturing sector has declined over several decades, and it won't be rebuilt overnight. But if we are going to compete against nations like China, who are putting everything into their manufacturing sector, we are going to have to have our own comprehensive roadmap to increase our capacity and create jobs."

Details on the bill that Michaud and his colleagues introduced this week can be found below.

National Manufacturing Strategy Act of 2011

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING STRATEGY – Requires the President to submit to Congress a National Manufacturing Strategy by the first day of July of the second year of each presidential term. The first Strategy must be delivered within one year of enactment.

PRESIDENT'S MANUFACTURING STRATEGY BOARD - Establishes within the Department of Commerce the President's Manufacturing Strategy Board. The Board will be composed of cabinet members and federal officials; two Governors from separate political parties; and 9 private sector members, who shall represent certain manufacturing constituencies.

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MANUFACTURING STRATEGY BOARD

- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the nation's manufacturing sector, and specifies certain areas of analysis.
- Issue a preliminary report within 90 days of its establishment on the state of American manufacturing, with an emphasis on the recommendations that have been issued by the Manufacturing Council of the Department of Commerce that have not been acted upon and a summary and assessment of recommendations that have been issued by other non-governmental parties relating to domestic manufacturing.

- Develop the National Manufacturing Strategy, and to take into consideration the analysis, National Academy of Sciences studies and other pertinent information. The Strategy shall include short- and long-term goals for improving the nation's manufacturing sector. It shall also include recommendations, aimed at a variety of stakeholders, for achieving those goals.

- Draft Strategy for public comment for 30 days. Upon receipt of those comments and any revisions, the Board shall submit the Strategy to the President for his review, revision and approval.

- Include cost estimates of outlay or revenue changes and savings associated with the recommendations, suggestions to pay for any such costs, and a plan for how and by whom the recommendations will be implemented.

- Issue an annual report. This annual report shall include an assessment of the current state of manufacturing in the United States, an assessment of the implementation of previously-issued Strategies, recommendations for improving such implementation, and suggested revisions to the cost, outlay and savings estimates of the recommendations in the Strategy.

- Consult annually on manufacturing issues with the Defense Science Board, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, the Manufacturing Council of the Department of Commerce, and the Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

GAO REVIEW OF NATIONAL MANUFACTURING STRATEGY - Requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review of the Strategy three years following its publication. This sunsets after the first three issuances of the Strategy. This review shall include an assessment of whether recommendations were implemented, an analysis of their impact, assessments of the forecasts and trends included in the report and a comparison of them to actual events and trends, assessment of the process involved in developing the Strategy, and consideration of recommendations for improving the process and product of the forthcoming Strategy.

STUDIES - Requires that the President, through the Department of Commerce, to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct periodic studies related to the Nation's manufacturing sector.

STRATEGY IN ANNUAL BUDGET - Requires that when preparing the annual budget request the President shall include information regarding how the budget is consistent with the goals and recommendations of the most recent National Manufacturing Strategy.

#